

**To:** Manzanilla, Enrique[Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Williams, Laurie[Williams.Laurie@epa.gov]; Shane, Dan[Shane.Dan@epa.gov]; Cafasso, Sarah[Cafasso.Sarah@epa.gov]; Waldon, MARGARET[Waldon.Margaret@epa.gov]; Allen, HarryL[Allen.HarryL@epa.gov]  
**From:** Meer, Daniel  
**Sent:** Mon 2/22/2016 4:50:26 PM  
**Subject:** RE: R9 Weekender  
EMAD briefing paper 02.22.16.docx

Revised one pager on Argonaut. New information highlighted yellow

I can synthesize it into an email to send back, if you wish. Dan

Daniel A. Meer, Assistant Director

Superfund Division

Emergency Response, Preparedness and Prevention Branch

415.972.3132 (O)

415.971.6792 (C)

**From:** Manzanilla, Enrique  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 7:52 AM  
**To:** Blumenfeld, Jared  
**Cc:** Strauss, Alexis; Kao, Jessica  
**Subject:** Re: R9 Weekender

We will get you something today.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 22, 2016, at 7:11 AM, Blumenfeld, Jared <[BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV](mailto:BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV)> wrote:

Can you give me something responsive re Jackson.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** February 22, 2016 at 6:43:18 AM PST  
**To:** "Blumenfeld, Jared" <[BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV](mailto:BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV)>  
**Cc:** "Meiburg, Stan" <[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov](mailto:Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov)>, "Fritz, Matthew" <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>, "Rupp, Mark" <[Rupp.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Rupp.Mark@epa.gov)>, "Purchia, Liz" <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)>, "Distefano, Nichole" <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)>, "Pieh, Luseni" <[Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov](mailto:Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov)>, "Zito, Kelly" <[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV](mailto:ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV)>, "Strauss, Alexis" <[Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov](mailto:Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: R9 Weekender

Thanks Jared. Re: Argonaut Mine, given the length of time that listing and funding takes, have you and the Secretary agreed upon any continued interim measures that may be necessary in the short-term that may be necessary to ensure the dam does not fail?

Also, re: the MFN meeting, it would be great to get them engaged with our larger effort and make them aware of the \$300M request in the FY 17 Pres Bud.

Would also be good to have discussions after your meeting about how we might adjust our national strategy to take advantage of the growing national alliance on this. Clearly, this is a great EJ issue and has overlap with NEPA for transportation projects.

**From:** Blumenfeld, Jared  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2016 6:52 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Meiburg, Stan <[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov](mailto:Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov)>; Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>; Rupp, Mark <[Rupp.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Rupp.Mark@epa.gov)>; Purchia, Liz <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)>; Distefano, Nichole <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)>; Pieh, Luseni <[Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov](mailto:Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov)>; Zito, Kelly <[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV](mailto:ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV)>; Strauss, Alexis <[Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov](mailto:Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** R9 Weekender

**Aliso Canyon:** State officials confirmed Thursday the natural gas leak has been permanently sealed. The four-month leak released an estimated 80,000 metric tons of methane and other chemical compounds, and now ranks as the worst natural gas leak in U.S. history. The Los Angeles County Health Dept. advised residents who neither smell any odors nor have any symptoms to consider it safe to occupy their homes.

However, CARB and SCAQMD called for an adjustment in the timetable for residents to return home, expressing concern that contaminants might linger. These two agencies will continue to monitor for methane, mercaptans, benzene and hydrogen sulfide. We agreed to QA their data per the request from Boxer. The leaking well was one of 115 injection wells at the 3,600-acre underground storage facility, which is among the nation's largest. Many of those wells are aging, corroded and mechanically damaged.

**American School Bus Council Event:** on Friday, I joined representatives of Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and Congressman Bera, to address over 500 students at the Cosumnes River Elementary School about cleaner school buses, following three days on snowy roads visiting 7 No. California tribes.

**Argonaut Mine, Jackson, CA:** last week CalEPA Sec. Rodriguez concurred with our proposed NPL listing, and asked us to consider credit towards future match obligations (as they have been funding interim measures to prevent the failure of a 100-year old dam retaining mine tailings onsite). We'll proceed with the proposed listing in late March 2016. I visited this dam on Friday and it's in poor shape.

**CAA Arizona:**

- a. we conducted inspections in Arizona with OECA inspectors focused on CAA vehicle tampering compliance, and targeted at automotive aftermarket parts manufacturers, dealers, and installation shops.
- b. Our senior Air Div. managers met with their ADEQ counterparts to discuss the impact of our new ozone standard, emissions offsets, regional haze, and the Clean Power Plan.
- c. participated in outreach efforts in Arizona, with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, to advance clean diesel technologies and best practices. We co-hosted a workshop with the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), a Making a Visible Difference community. GRIC received a 2015 DERA tribal grant to replace equipment used at the Gila River Farms with cleaner Tier 4 engine vehicles.

**OIG:** we met with Kevin Christenson to discuss issues of mutual interest, and

received a positive closure to the Hawaii Drinking Water SRF audit. They are now focused with us on Guam and CNMI grant expenditures. Our teams are working well together. We provided comments to OARM on an OIG audit on our transit subsidy program, and are taking steps to fully address their concern.

**Moving Forward Network:** I'll meet MFN representatives next Thursday. MFN is a coalition of EJ organizations and community groups concerned about the freight transportation system in EJ areas. In a coordinated set of letters sent to you, as well as Regions 2, 6, 7, 9, and 10, MFN is asking all of us to identify communities affected by goods movement, and formulate environmental goals for the freight sector in those communities, facilitate development/deployment of zero-emission technologies, and advocate for EJ priorities in the NEPA process (eg via Health Impact Assessments)

**OW visit:** Joel Beauvais will visit Reg. 9 February 24<sup>th</sup>-26 to speak at the NACWA conference and the Utility Management Conference in San Diego. We're organizing site visits during his trip, including a Mexico border tour, meetings with Surfrider Foundation and the San Diego Regional Water Board, tours of the Carlsbad Desalination Plant and the Encina Biosolids Plant, and facility tours with the Orange County Sanitation District and Water District. Joel will also tour the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, the Cargill Salt Works site, and the Oro Loma Sanitation District Ecotone project.

**Exide/cleaning up lead (Pb):** CA Gov. Brown proposed a \$176.6 million plan for expanded testing and cleanup of residential properties, schools, daycare centers and parks within a 1.7 mile radius of the former Exide Technologies facility in Vernon, CA. where lead levels are the highest and potential exposure the greatest. We remain engaged as this has been a site of great community concern. Located 5 miles SE of downtown Los Angeles, the 15-acre facility lies in an area mixing heavy industry with surrounding residential areas. Exide recycled lead-bearing scrap from spent lead-acid batteries, ceased operations in 2014, and is now permanently closed. The CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) ordered Exide to test and clean up residential properties and conducted its own testing, finding impacts extend to 10,000 properties, including residences, parks, and schools.

DTSC has removed 10,000 tons of contaminated soil and analyzed over 20,000 soil samples, and formed an advisory group of community leaders, local residents, business

leaders, scientists, and elected officials. The additional funding will address contaminated soil at the properties that have the highest lead levels and greatest potential exposure to residents. DTSC will evaluate lead-acid batteries through a Hazardous Waste Reduction Initiative.